













# HE MAKES CHARGES AGAINST BUILDING INSPECTOR McIVOR

Dismissed Assistant Building Inspector Declares McIvor Has Permitted Gross Violations of Building By-Laws and Has Shown Favoritism to His Friends

Forbes, until Monday, assistant building inspector, now plain Forbes, citizen, is complaining to the city clerk regarding his dismissal from a civil office. He has written a letter to the council detailing his work and while protesting mainly against his own dismissal makes some exceedingly serious charges against Building Inspector McIvor. This is what Forbes says in his letter:

"I have been employed as assistant building inspector for the past two years and was given notice of dismissal to take effect May 31st, 1914, to make an opening in the department for the friend of the superintendent who has already been engaged. There is no reason given for my dismissal. My work has given satisfaction and is limited. The superintendent, the third or fourth employee who has been dismissed to make room for the superintendent's friends, has been working for the city. I might say that if there was any real reason for my being treated in this manner, I would not have appealed to your honorable body for justice.

"I would like to say that the state of affairs in the department is disgraceful and should be investigated at once. The head of the department has often refused to take any action in punishing employees who have come into the city to do business with him. This is very embarrassing to the city and for the honor of the city and the employees under him.

"Regarding the enforcement of building by-laws, the superintendent is in every way. Take one of our houses, for instance. The wooden floors that hold the concrete in place until it sets have never been removed from the roof of the above-mentioned houses. The concrete has moved them, but a portion of the concrete roof collapsed, and the roof were never taken off and they still remain to support the roof. The superintendent cannot answer that the roof will stay up there or will come down on the heads of the people. There are connections in the steel part of the building that have not got a rivet to them and all kinds of places with very few bolts. If any of these things should fall, they would look into before the building was occupied. The superintendent considered his friends first and the safety of the public afterwards.

"I could mention a dozen similar instances, such as the Empire Auditorium, on Second street, also the five-story steel building and there is not a rivet in it. This does not comply with the by-law.

"I have his friends allowed to use the streets for piling their material on, and as most of them are friends of the superintendent, they never pay a cent for the use of the street, although according to the city by-law, they should be charged one cent per square foot per month. Frame buildings and additions have also been erected in the first-class fire limits by his friends, but should any one who sets a frame out for such a favor, he takes them down and often abuses them.

"The assistant inspectors try to make everybody comply with the by-law, but instead of getting support from the superintendent, he tells them to go ahead and do what they please directly opposite to the rules of the by-law. How can the city expect people to live up to the by-laws when the superintendent violates them in every way, in order to stand in well with his friends?

"Another instance. There is a clerk in the office who was sent for from the East by the superintendent. He has now worked in the department for about two years and is paid for a decrease of salary from \$10 to \$8. There are men who have been in the department for from two to six years, men who have the hardest work to perform, but

there is neither said about any in the department. What is wanted in the building department is a man who would know how to make the office and understand the outside work; a man who would not be afraid to look after the public interest and who has the ability to go ahead with the work. This I claim the present inspector does not possess and the same is known by everyone who has any dealings with him in connection with the city.

"I do not only want to appreciate how much I owe your honorable body would look into the affairs of this department, for the benefit of the ratepayers of this city, but there are five or six other inspectors who are anxious that this investigation be made."

Moith to investigate.

When the letter was read at the council meeting last night, Ald. McIvor, who is the superintendent, in support of it, he referred to the commissioner of health and safety to investigate and report to the council if he saw fit. Ald. East, seconded Forbes as a disgruntled fired employee in whose statements no evidence could be placed. His statement through the charges should be looked into, and if they were false, Inspector McIvor should be cleared.

"I am sure," said man's charge that he is dismissed without cause, I know that the city is in a state of confusion in other departments. I know I have been told lies as to why men were dismissed. The man told there were serious charges, when there were none.

Commissioner Booth said he had been asked last night again, the had considered the grounds sufficient. He promised to investigate and report.

**EAST END RESIDENTS HAVE COMPLAINTS**

**Rat Creek and Incinerator Odors Are Cause of Sickness They Say**

East end residents petitioned to the city council last night against the bad odors arising from Rat Creek and from the burning of dead animals in the incinerator. Sickness among children in the neighborhood was ascribed to this cause.

The petition was referred to Commissioner Booth to investigate and report if possible. The creek Rat Creek was ordered flushed. This would have no effect.

Commissioner Booth explained that the city department had been putting in drains and using lime in the Rat Creek Ravine Park in an effort to clean the odor there. He thought the idea that dead animals were being burned in the incinerator caused any odors was wrong; all the odor came from the ravine in his opinion.

**NEW NUMBERING SCHEME IS READY**

Commissioner Booth reported that the new street and house numbering scheme was now practically installed, and recommended the time had come when the people should stand up to it. The numbering was completed.

**PERMITTED TO MOVE BUILDING**

J. O'Hara, owner of the one-story frame building at the northwest corner of First street and Athabasca avenue, was given permission to move the building to another location within the city. The city clerk, J. H. McIvor, took the north of the tracks on Queen's avenue.

# CITY COUNCIL FILES PETITION ASKING CONTRACT INQUIRY

First Decided to Ask Committee For Report But Later Taken up in Council

A petition bearing one hundred names, asking an investigation by the council into the award of contract for laying watermain to a tenderer not the lowest, was presented by J. D. Byers, last night. This was in reference to the same case covered in the recent temporary adjournment discussed on Monday morning by Justice Scott. C. J. De Vail's tender for the contract under dispute was about \$11,400 lower than those submitted by Graham and McMahon, between whom it was made. The city engineer, in making his recommendation, stated that De Vail's price was based on the use of trenching machines, and that he did not think he could do the work in the time to do this year.

Commissioner Saunders explained that the committee had already had referred the tenders to the city engineer, who had been asked to investigate and report to the council if he saw fit. Ald. East, seconded Forbes as a disgruntled fired employee in whose statements no evidence could be placed. His statement through the charges should be looked into, and if they were false, Inspector McIvor should be cleared.

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**CITY WATER RATES INCREASED GO INTO EFFECT ON JULY 1ST**

Increase in the water rates, as recommended by Commissioner Chalmers and already published, were approved and ordered into effect by the council last night.

Commissioning on the part of the committee on water rates reported as follows:

"That the new rates are lower than the old rates to a large number of the very smallest consumers, while the increases are practically reductions to large business consumers, many of whom in the past have been receiving their water at considerably less than cost, which has been the prime reason for the deficit now existing in the waterworks department. Under the circumstances it is felt that the schedule may more properly be called a proper readjustment rather than a new schedule."

"Up to the present time it may be pointed out that matters have been charged for according to the size of the meter, but under the new schedule rates submitted will include and cover the meter rent, which therefore will not be an additional charge upon those who have meters installed."

**DELEGATES TO REPRESENT CITY**

Commissioner Harrison and Alderman Kinney were designated as appointed delegates at the city council meeting last night, to represent Edmonton at the Alberta Town Planning association in Calgary on June 14, 15 and 16.

**APRIL REPORTS RECEIVED AND READ**

April reports from the fire and health departments were received and read. The fire marshal reported good progress in having gasoline in large tanks stored in underground tanks.

**Choke Cause Headache and Grip.**

**MAXIMITE BROMO QUININE** Tablets remove cause. There is only one "BROMO QUININE." It has signature of E. W. LIDMAN on box. See

# Council Decides To Lay Out 50,000 Yards of Paving

Mayor to Arrange For Financing and Commissioner Saunders to Report on Streets to be Paved First—Work to be Done by Municipal Paving Plant

On a motion by Alderman Kinney, made after midnight and after Alderman Kinney and Smith had left the meeting, the council decided to lay out the laying of at least 50,000 square yards of paving, to start as soon as possible, and the mayor to arrange for the financing. The commissioner of public works is to report as to what streets should be paved at the first meeting.

Alderman Kinney also secured the report of a majority of the aldermen present to another motion recommending Commissioner Saunders to purchase whatever equipment was required to complete the city paving plant. The presumption is that the city plant will lay the 50,000 square yards.

Alderman Douglas opposed the idea of starting a municipal paving plant. "We can't make our present plant pay," said he, "and until we do I don't think we should start any other."

It was the inspector on the job, said Commissioner Saunders. "I do like to know what qualifications had these city inspectors have," he said. "I was going to say I don't know what they are, but I don't think I do."

Commissioner Saunders stated that two days ago he had been asked to see him and a man with him, had come to his office and asked the commissioner to use his influence in getting the work done. He had said that he was going to do it, but he had not done it.

"We got this out of our system all the time," said the commissioner, "from men who want to 'hog all the contracts.'"

At the end of an hour's discussion the council reconsidered the former motion and decided to adopt Alderman Kinney's motion to lay out 50,000 yards of paving, to start as soon as possible, and the mayor to arrange for the financing.

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**Action Deferred For Increase of Telephone Rates**

Three Motions Come Before the Council and All Are Defeated

Although three different motions before the night session present at last night's meeting, not one of them was able to find a majority to support it. The result was that action in regard to the increase in telephone rates was deferred for one week.

The majority report of the committee recommending an increase in the rate on a residential phone, with residence phones on the same rate as business phones, was defeated.

A motion by Alderman East for the telephone rates to be increased \$15 for business, and \$24 for residential, was also defeated. Finally a motion to refer the whole matter back to the committee was in its turn defeated.

Alderman May gave notice that the matter would be considered again next week. The council expects to get action before the first of July when the quarter ends, so that the new rates may be in force for the third quarter of the year.

**REPORTS ARE RECEIVED FROM THE COUNCIL**

Reports from the safety and health committee on the C.N.R. mill site entrance and the case of Wright v. the city, were adopted.

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